

Palau
Table B. Data Categories and Indicators
External Sector

DATA CATEGORY: Merchandise Trade
National Descriptor:
(if different, please indicate)

CORE INDICATORS: Total exports and total imports

ENCOURAGED EXTENSIONS: Major commodity breakdowns with longer time lapse
(as applicable)
Country-Specific Indicator:
(if different, please indicate)

Information applies to: Data Category Only
(select from drop down list)

CONTACT PERSON(S):
*(Enter the contact information of a person in the following order on separate lines:
Name, Title, Agency, Address, Telephone, Fax, E-mail Address
Leave a blank line between two persons' information.)*

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I. Data Characteristics

Coverage

Briefly describe the key characteristics of the data; i.e., the features of which a user must be aware to use the data appropriately. These include the unit of measure, scope (e.g., geographic, institutional, product),

<i>statistical characteristics (e.g., seasonal adjustment, index number base year), basic data source, and accounting conventions.</i>
Palau trade data covers all trade activities in Palau. . Trade data are compiled by the Division of Customs. Commodities are classified using the HS System and values are in US dollars. All measurements units uses the US unit of measurements rather the metric system. Fish and garment data can also be obtained directly from the exporting companies themselves. There is no seasonal adjustment to Palau trade data.
Periodicity: <i>Identify the frequency of compilation and dissemination of the data (e.g., monthly, quarterly, annual)</i>
Trade data are available monthly, quarterly and annually but the annual data are the only data published on our Annual Statistical Yearbook.
Timeliness: <i>Identify the lapse of time between the end of a reference period (or a reference date) and the dissemination of the data.</i>
Trade Data are available from Division of Customs a week after the reference period, on a monthly basis. They can also be requested after each quarter or after the end of the year. Trade Data are currently only published in our Annual Statistical Yearbook which is published in July each year.

II. Quality
Documentation of Methodology: <i>Identify any publicly available statement of methodology that describes how the data are compiled and the sources of data.</i>
Palau trade statistics are compiled by the Division of Customs under the Bureau of National Treasury, Ministry of Administration. Until 1999, imports data were only recorded at FOB value, and freight and insurance was estimated to range between 15%-25% of FOB. As of 2000 the Division of Customs has modified and improved their system to enable them to record imports at their FOB and CIF values. Fish and garment exports data are also recorded in the Customs Trade System but the Statistics Office can also obtain administrative data directly from the fish & garment companies to cross check against exports data from the Customs PC trade system.
Data to Support Cross-checks and Assurance of Reasonableness: <i>Describe the kind and extent of detail of published data, the statistical frameworks (including accounting identities and statistical relationships), and the comparisons and reconciliations that are available to assist users in assessing the quality of the data.</i>
The Division of Customs uses the PC Trade for the compilation of their data as a bi-product of their administrative functions. Custom officials do conduct routine validity checks for errors on monthly basis. Fish exports are published in total tonnage and value in the annual Statistical Yearbook. Although records and details of fish type, tonnages are available they are not published. Garment exports data are published in the Annual Statistical Yearbook by value only. Again although detail information on the garment exports is available, they are not published.

III. Plans for Improvement
<i>Describe short-term (in the next year) and medium-term (2-5 years) plans for making improvements in the data category and note any improvements that have been implemented in the past two years. Technical or other assistance needs that may be required for implementing these plans should also be noted, if applicable. If it has been determined that there are no shortcomings that need to be addressed, this determination should be explicitly stated.</i>
Recent Improvements: Until 2000, the Division of Customs recorded imports at their FOB value only, now the system has been modified to allow the recording of CIF values also. The Palau Statistics Office is now planning to begin publishing trade in our local news papers on a quarterly basis.
Short-Term Plans: Training on PC trade system especially on reports writing and data analysis.
Medium-Term Plans:

Purchases of more hard wares and training for the Division of Customs statisticians.
The Division of Customs is currently looking at the Asycuda System as a possible improvement or upgrade to their PC Trade System.

Technical Assistance/Financing Needs/Other Prerequisites:

Short-Term:

Training on PC trade system especially on reports writing and data analysis.

Medium-Term:

None

IV. Dissemination Formats

For each publication or data release, check the box corresponding to the frequency of release and indicate the title and language(s) on the next line. Identify an appropriate contact person, if different from first page.

Hard Copy:

News Release:

Publication:

Weekly:

Monthly:

Quarterly:

Annual:

Trade data, (imports and exports are currently being published in our Annual Statistical Yearbook only)

Other:

Electronic:

Internet:

Other Online:

CD-ROM:

Diskette:

Other (specify):

None: